(b) whether the Centre of Indian Trade Unions had drawn the attention of the Ministry during March, 2005 to the antecedents of the said consultant firm;

(c) if so, the details of objections raised by the CITU and whether the EPFO agreed to verify such antecedents;

(d) whether the same were verified;

(e) if so, the result of such verified; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIK. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The following issues were raised:

(i) Alleged involvement in providing inaccurate information to New York Stock Exchange in the matter of Compensation Package to its Chairman; and

(ii) Allegation of wrong doing against Marsh Inc. (sister concern).

(d) and (e) The matter was referred to the Consultant M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting for their comments and it was clarified by them that their role was restricted to advice on actuarial and pension related matters and did not involve rendering of advice or services concering the Compensation Committee's annual decisions regarding compensation of New York Stock Exchange employees, including the Chairman.

It was also clarified that M/s Mercer is an independent company, run entirely by its own management and responsible to its own Board of Directors. The events surrounding Marsh Inc. have no bearing on Mercer's operation and do not affect its financial or professional capability to service its clients effectively in any part of the world.

(0 Does not arise in view of (d) & (e) above.

Assistance for Tsunami Warning System

3281. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the setting up of Tsunami Warning System;

(b) whether the Government have taken the assistance of World Bank or Asian Development Bank for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the interest to be paid to them for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIKAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Government is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean at the total cost of Rs. 125 crores with the following components:

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate, near real time occurence of tsunamigenic earthquakes;
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity;
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking to validate arrival of tsunami waves at the coast;
- Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast and mapping of potential risk areas;
- Collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.

A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on a 24x7 basis. The system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007. The Tsunami Warning System is for the whole country.

Under this project action has been initiated for interconnecting 17 broadband seismic stations and for real time communication of the data to the Central Receiving Station (CRS) of India Meterological Department at New Delhi and to the Parallel CRS at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. Action has been initiated to procure and install the first phase of 5 Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting System (DART Buoys). Eleven Automatic Tide Gauges have already been installed along the Indian Coastline. Online data is being received through GSM connectivity. Efforts are also underway to establish communication between tide gauges and the Early Warning Centre at INCOIS through INSAT. An interim early warning mechanism is presently operational at INCOIS, Hyderabad on 24x7 basis.

(b) No, Sir. The Government is setting up on its own the Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.